

# Members Briefing 098

28 April 2009

## EVENTS ON THE MEADOWS 2009

The production of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto is underway to provide a wider framework for the management of events in The Meadows and other parks and green spaces. The aim is to help secure a balance between using these sites for events whilst sustaining a high quality environment.

### Background

- Concerns have been raised by members, officers and local residents that the condition of The Meadows has deteriorated over several years, due to the number of events held there.
- It is intended to submit a report with initial details of the Edinburgh Park Events Manifesto to the Council's Policy & Strategy Committee for approval on 12 May 2009.

### Managing events in the interim period

- Negotiations have taken place between Council officials and all events organisers who have requested use of the Meadows, to identify possible alternative sites for 2009.
- To date, agreement has been reached to site the Moonwalk event and the Taste of Edinburgh event in Inverleith Park and to relocate the start/finish of the Great Edinburgh Run to George IV Bridge.

- Detailed discussions have been held with organisers of other events which are traditionally held on the Meadows.
- Applications for The Ladies Orange Lodge and the Meadows Festival are pending. Meetings with the Meadows Festival Funfair, The Edinburgh Arrow, Festival and Fringe Funfair and The Urban Circus have resulted in the agreement of a range of robust conditions to allow these events to proceed.

### Event Duration

- Issues surrounding the duration of events have been discussed and it has been accepted that in some cases the length of run is required in order to ensure that an event remains economically viable.
- Where viability does not rely on duration, events have been asked to reduce the length of stay to fall within the recommendations to be issued in the proposed Events Manifesto.

### Location

- No events have been given permission to take up those areas which are showing wear and tear.
- Only areas with direct vehicle access have been considered viable venues. Appropriate rest times following each event have been ensured.
- The footprint of each event will be managed to enable them to proceed with minimal impact to sporting fixtures.

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## Tracking

- Additional tracking will be laid to prevent damage from vehicle movements during set up and breakdown and will be removed between times, to prevent excessive areas of grass from yellowing. Additional pedestrian tracking will also be required to protect the areas of grass at risk of heavy footfall.

## Vehicle Access

- Vehicle access during setup / breakdown of events will be from a single access point, either George Square or Melville Drive. This will ensure vehicles travel over the minimum area of ground. No vehicles will be permitted onto the sites from any other access point.
- Once the set up of an event is complete no vehicle movement will be permitted onto the site with the exception of small, authorised vehicles which will cover servicing issues and disabled access. Boarding will be laid for vehicles when weather conditions require it.

## Vehicles and Overnight Stays

- Overnight caravans and vehicle numbers have been reduced and will be limited to the use of security, technical and "on call" staff only, in line with Health and Safety requirements. These must remain static for the duration of the event. Permits will be issued by CEC for the specific vehicles authorised. Additional vehicles or caravans are to be housed in an alternative site. Diesel vehicles permitted on site will need to have drip

trays in position to prevent leaks or spills onto the grass.

## Deliveries

- Delivery times will be restricted and all delivery vehicles will be required to park on hard standing areas with goods transferred to sites manually or using a small light vehicle.
- Stewards will be required to staff these areas to ensure vehicles do not drive onto the grass. Access will be for emergency and servicing purposes only.

## Performers

- Performers will be accommodated off site and will be transported to the venue as required. A bus will drop passengers off on the hard standing area and they will walk, using the pedestrian tracking to the marquee areas. The bus will be parked in an alternative hard standing area between journeys.

## Increased Supervision

- Regular site meetings will be held with Officers during events to immediately address any issues that may arise. Additional Park Rangers will be available during the day and in the evenings to ensure all restrictions are adhered to.

## Bond

- All organisers will pay a full bond to ensure full repair to any areas of ground damaged.

## Review

- A full review will be held upon completion of the event and will be reported directly to all stakeholders.